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LONDON metro®

MAKE TRACKS FOR THIS ART SHOW

LONDON MUSIC AND ART LEGEND MURRAY FAVRO'S NEW EXHIBITION IS INSPIRED BY POTATO PEELERS, SHAVERS AND THOSE ENDLESS CP TRAINS PAGE 8

Rainy-day blues

When April showers come your way, they bring the plumbers for floods today. This week's deluge has turned some roads into small lakes PAGE 3

He gave that a thumbs-up?

Did anyone like Mad Max Beyond Thunderdome besides Roger Ebert? Metro pays tribute to the late, great film critic's more unorthodox choices PAGE 9

Do try this at home

Never mind the U.S. decor store invasion: Some of the finest and most interesting items for your home are designed and made right here in Canada PAGE 13

NEWS WORTH SHARING.

LIGHTNING SHORT-CIRCUIT

Marvin Phillips of the London Lightning attempts to haul in a rebound during Wednesday night's game against the Summerside Storm. The Lightning narrowly missed taking home the NBL of Canada championship, losing to Summerside 111-99. The Lightning play again in P.E.I. on Friday. Read more about the game on page 17. COLIN MCLEAN/JOURNAL PIONEER

Building a new brand downtown

Reborn identity. Effort afoot to give King and Talbot its own distinctive stamp

MARK SPOWART
london@metronews.ca

It's becoming the corner where London likes to party.

When the London Knights celebrated a stellar 2011-12 season, they hoisted the OHL's top trophy for everyone to see at King and Talbot streets.

When the world came for last month's skating championships, the intersection was at the centre of the action.

And a ticker-tape parade to honour the Stanley Cup's brief Forest City stop last fall? Yeah, it ended there, too, drawing hundreds to what at least some people think has the potential to stand as its very own district within downtown.

Dave Cook, who is opening a branch of his Fire Roasted Coffee Company at the corner, is pushing the idea.

"We have some great operators on this block. You have Kantina, Early Bird, J-Dee's Market Grill and (Covent Garden Market)," said Cook, whose new shop is set to open mid-May. "Within 40 steps you can have all these unique experiences, so I think that is where the strengths and synergies fly."

To get the ball moving, Cook has turned to social media. He's been tweeting with the hashtag #KingTalbot since February in hopes of creating a buzz.

Large cities are known for having distinct districts — seen as a way to increase traffic by marketing directly to people with certain interests — within their urban cores. But the idea has never really flown in London.

In fact, it's failed, said Bob Usher, CEO of the Covent Garden Market and chair of the London Downtown Business Association. When the market reopened in 1998 after an extensive renovation, leaders tried to brand the area as a "market district." The idea never took, Usher said.

But, as Janette MacDonald pointed out, that was a different day and age. Since then, Budweiser Gardens has been built, and King and Talbot, in general, has seen a big rebirth.

"I think it is a great idea," MacDonald, general manager of the Downtown London Business Association, said about branding the area. "I think King-Talbot is really where it is at."

On the move

- The Downtown London Business Association left its headquarters on Dundas Street in October and moved into Citi Plaza.
- Now, the group says it's moving in July to an empty storefront at 123 King St.
- The move is due, in part, to the rejuvenation of King and Talbot streets, association manager Janette MacDonald said.

NEWS 1

Jurisdiction

Company that supplied diluted chemo drugs in grey area

It's unclear who has ultimate authority over the operations of an Ontario company that supplied diluted chemotherapy drugs to patients in two provinces, the Ontario and federal governments acknowledged Wednesday.

More than 1,100 cancer patients in Ontario and New Brunswick received weaker-than-prescribed doses of the drugs — including about 665 at London Health Sciences Centre — which were prepared by the same supplier, Marchese Hospital Solutions. Some patients received diluted doses for up to a year.

But Marchese appears to fall into a jurisdictional grey area. Preparing medications for hospitals — which they would usually do themselves — is a relatively new business model, said Dr. Supriya Sharma, senior medical adviser at Health Canada.

"It does get a bit complex because under one roof with the operations, they actually have different areas that are doing different activities, and those different activities may actually be under different jurisdictions," she said.

Health Canada regulates and inspects drug manufacturers, while the college is responsible for pharmacists in Ontario. Hospitals are responsible for the purchase and security of their drugs.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Beery interesting things brewing at Museum London

Krista Hamlin, assistant registrar at Museum London, sets up a new exhibit Wednesday that will feature the history of Labatt Breweries. Called London's Hometown Brewery: The Labatt Story, the exhibit opens Saturday and continues through June 30. The exhibition documents Labatt from the very beginning and includes a variety of artifacts ranging from the founding family's personal items to equipment used to transport beer. MARK SPOWART/FOR METRO

Work on Southdale to start next month

East-west link. Project aims to widen street to address congestion

One of the city's hottest spots for bottleneck traffic is about to get uncorked.

Crews are expected to break ground in May on a construction project that will widen Southdale Road between Wharncliffe and Wonderland.

The stretch will be brought up to four lanes with work continuing though November. A final layer of asphalt will be rolled on in 2014.

A $6 million contract for the work will be up for final council approval Tuesday.

The project, officials say, will bring an end to backups drivers have become accustomed to during morning and afternoon commutes.

"It is a big job," said Doug MacRae, the city's manager of transportation, planning and design.

The road sees, on average, between 22,000 and 25,000 vehicles daily, MacRae said. That's "way over the intended capacity of 18,000," he said.

Southdale will remain open during construction. Crews will tackle one side of the road at a time to keep traffic flowing.

The approach will lengthen the project, but creating a detour was out of the question, MacRae said.

"In an ideal world, detouring would make the job easier and quicker," he said. "But putting that amount of volume through a residential neighbourhood is just not an option."

Other construction planned for this spring and summer includes: sewer work on Springbank Drive near Byron Baseline Road; Oxford Street widening between Hyde Park and Boler roads; widening Sarnia Road from Wonderland to Aldersbrook. MARK SPOWART/FOR METRO

Cones and barrels

- People with concerns about construction can call the city's hotline at 519-661-4570 or email construction@london.ca.
- For the app that provides construction reports, search for "Renew London" at london.ca.

Punching death. Lengthy prison term sought

The Crown wants a seven-year prison sentence for a man who pleaded guilty to throwing a deadly downtown punch last spring.

The defence, meanwhile, is asking that Chad Hallett, 27, of London, serve a three-year prison term.

A sentencing hearing for Hallett, who pleaded guilty in February to manslaughter, started Wednesday. The judge will make a decision April 30.

Hallett sucker punched Daniel Brand, 40, of London, at Carling and Richmond streets on April 14.

Brand fell to the ground, hit his head and was unconscious when paramedics arrived, police said. He died a short time later in hospital. AM980/AM980.CA

Before the fatal punch

- About 10 minutes before Hallett punched Brand, he was involved in another fight, police said at the time. The victim was treated for facial injuries.

Elgin-Middlesex

Two injured in prison fire

An inmate and a worker were taken to hospital Wednesday after a fire at the Elgin-Middlesex Detention Centre.

Police said they were called to the prison at 711 Exeter Rd. on a report of a small fire in one of the pods. Police and the Ontario Fire Marshal's Office are investigating the blaze as an arson.

The injuries are not believed to be life-threatening, police said. METRO

$5K. Young entrepreneurs to pitch ideas for cash

A student business idea will receive $5,000 Thursday during a Seed Your Startup competition organized by Western University's Student Success Centre and BizInc. The competition aims to help entrepreneurs move from ideas to reality.

Fifty business plans were submitted by Western and Fanshawe College students. Five were selected as finalists and teams have been working with advisors to polish their pitches.

Presentations start at 1:30 p.m. in Western's Mustang Lounge. METRO

Finalists

- **ShockLock.** Helps lift vehicle hatches
- **Igniteck.** Fitness app
- **Modern Edge Razors.** Straight razors with modern design
- **GamePress.** Takes mobile games to the iPad
- **Build-A-Bakeshop.** Packaging for bakeries

Auditor general. OLG plans under the microscope

Rod Phillips TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

The province's auditor general will investigate the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corp.'s expansion plans and the cancellation of the slots-at-racetracks program.

A legislative committee voted in favour of the audit Wednesday and directed the auditor to start it immediately.

The governing Liberals cancelled the slots-at-racetracks program last year, which rocked the horse-racing industry and hit venues like Western Fair District in the pocketbook.

The OLG has embarked on a plan to build new casinos in the province, which has also sparked controversy.

The audit will look into whether there are any secret or one-off deals regarding casino hosting payments to municipalities. It would also look into cancellation of the $345-million-a-year share of slot machine revenues that went to the racetracks.

A legislative committee that voted in favour of the OLG probe has also directed the auditor to look into the Crown corporation's plans for gaming facilities, bingo halls, online gaming and lotteries.

OLG's president and CEO Rod Phillips said the agency will "support the AG's review in every way we can and we look forward to working with his office."

Auditor general Jim McCarter said work could start as early as this week, but that will delay another value-for-money audit that's already underway.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Western. Lectures explore the science of being human

Western University is exploring the human brain in a series of lectures built around the theme of "malleable" brains and minds.

The next lecture is 7 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday at the London Central Library (251 Dundas St.). Professor Steve Lomber will focus on how hearing can have an affect on what we see.

The psychology lecture series, dubbed the Science of Being Human, is marking its fifth year.

Admission is free. Parking validation will be offered for Citi Plaza. METRO

Coming up

These lectures are also part of Western's psychology series:

- **April 19, 7 to 8:30 p.m.:** Our Attitudes Guide How We See the World, presented by James Olson
- **April 27, 2 to 3:30 p.m.:** Effective Strategies for Overcoming Depression, presented by David Dozois

Joyride

Two charged after car stolen

Two 18-year-old Londoners are facing a slew of charges after police said they took a joyride in a stolen vehicle.

The vehicle, which had been left unattended with keys in the ignition, was taken 10:15 p.m. Tuesday. It was involved in two crashes before being abandoned about 1 a.m., police said.

Omar Omar and Jessie McConnell face a combined six charges, including car theft and resisting arrest.

METRO

Slam Dunk Sallys

Harlem-style hoops for non-profit

Londoners will team up Friday to take on the Harlem Ambassadors in a charity basketball game to benefit The Salvation Army.

The Slam Dunk Sallys will include first responders, Fanshawe College students and some well-known local faces.

People who make a donation to the Salvation Army's food bank will get a discount at the door. Call 519-433-6106 for details.

METRO

A lane of Clarke Road north of Oxford Street was closed Wednesday after heavy downpours left standing water on several city streets. With more rain in the forecast, city officials expect flooding to continue on some roads. ANGELA MULLINS/METRO

Heavy downpours prompt flood fears

'Winter's last hoorah'. Rain, along with some freezing, in the forecast through Saturday

JOHN MATISZ
john.matisz@metronews.ca

Officials at the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority issued a flood watch Wednesday as rain continued to pound the area.

The amount of rain London generally sees in a month is being packed into a five-day period, Environment Canada senior meteorologist David Phillips said.

April is typically a "miserable" month in Ontario because it "tends to be overcast, systems seem to change from winter to summer, and it's not always what we want," he said.

Regardless, heavy rain over such a short span is out of the ordinary, Phillips noted.

"(London's) not out of the woods yet," he said. "It may be winter's last hoorah, who knows. This may be the end or it might not (be)."

After a wickedly wet Tuesday produced 36 millimetres, the soaking continued Wednesday with heavy downpours closing portions of several streets.

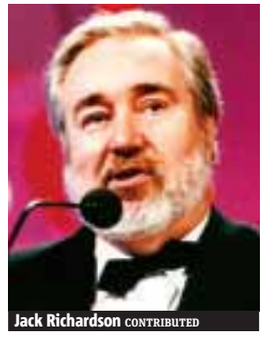
Boating ban

- **The London police have issued a boating ban on the Thames River because of dangerously high water levels.**
- **The ban remains in place until further notice, officials said Wednesday.**

If Environment Canada forecasts ring true, London will have upward of 100 millimetres of rain between Monday and Friday.

A rainfall warning remained in effect late Wednesday as the conservation authority cautioned people to steer clear of low-lying areas.

Areas likely to flood included Dingman Drive near Dingman Creek, Gibbons Park, Harris Park, Oxford Street near Pottersburg Creek, Wellington and Front streets and the Medway parking lot on Western's campus, the authority said.


Jack Richardson CONTRIBUTED

Local musicians to steal the spotlight during homegrown awards show

The Jack Richardson Music Awards will mark its ninth year this weekend, doling out more than 20 awards.

Honours for genres including jazz, blues, country, classical and rock will be up for grabs during a Sunday gala ceremony at London Music Hall (178 Dundas St.). Doors open at 7 p.m. and the show starts at 7:30 p.m.

Several acts up for awards will be performing, including The Allens, Metro4 and blues musician Rick Taylor.

Rock nominees The Baxters will perform a tribute to Richardson, a big-name Canadian music producer who died in 2011. Among his accomplishments, Richardson produced records for The Guess Who from 1969 to 1975. He also taught at Fanshawe College.

High school bands will battle it out at 7 p.m. Saturday to earn the music awards' youth title. That competition is at Fanshawe.

For a full list of nominees and more on the awards gala, visit jrma.ca.

ANGELA MULLINS/METRO

Syria. United States may send bigger military aid package to rebel forces

The Obama administration is expected to give Syrian rebels broader nonlethal assistance, including body armour and night-vision goggles, while stopping short of providing weapons to help fight Syrian President Bashar Assad.

The timing and scope of the stepped-up aid package is unclear. U.S. President Barack Obama has not given final approval, and an announcement is not imminent, according to a senior administration official, who requested anonymity.

Secretary of State John Kerry, who met with Syrian opposition leaders on Wednesday, hinted this week at quick action, saying broader assistance for the rebels has been "front and centre" in recent discussions.

Obama has resisted pressure to arm the rebels, in part out of fear that the weapons could fall into the hands of fighters who have allied with Islamic extremists.

Underscoring that concern, the leader of the most formidable rebel group in Syria pledged allegiance on Wednesday to al-Qaida, though he distanced himself from a claim that his Islamic extremist faction had merged with the terrorist network's Iraqi branch.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Prolonged conflict

With Syria's civil war in its third year, the U.S. and its allies are struggling to find ways to stem the violence that, according to the United Nations, has killed more than 70,000 people.

- **Still standing.** Assad has managed to hang on to power far longer than the Obama administration first expected.

Sexsomnia. Danish man acquitted of molesting teenage girls in his sleep

A Danish man has been acquitted of molesting two 17-year-old girls after he was found to suffer from a rare sleep disorder known as "sexsomnia."

The Glostrup court said Wednesday that the man fondled the teenagers while sleeping in his suburban Copenhagen apartment after a party in 2011.

The girls awoke and interrupted the man, and later reported him to police.

But the court cleared the 31-year-old of sex-crime charges, saying medical tests show he suffers from "sexsomnia" in which a person engages in sexual activity while asleep.

Michael Laub, a Danish sleep specialist who wasn't involved in the case, said it's a rare but widely recognized sleep disorder.

The defendant said he had no recollection of what happened.

Prosecutor Martin von Buelow said he wouldn't appeal the ruling.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Afghanistan

Afghan soldier fires on allies

An Afghan soldier fired a rocket-propelled grenade at an armoured vehicle carrying Lithuanian troops, injuring two of them, Lithuania's defence ministry says.

Officials said the Afghan fired on the Lithuanians' vehicle after requesting that they stop. The Afghan soldier was apprehended and remains in custody.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

United Kingdom

WWII bomb dug up in flower bed

Gardeners in Britain who were digging flower beds for a horticultural competition instead uncovered a Second World War bomb.

Police say a bomb-disposal unit was sent to a crossing near Nafferton train station. The area near the railway tracks was cordoned off to prevent vibrations from trains setting the device off. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A woman in July 2011 at the grave of one of many newly identified victims of the 1995 massacre in Srebrenica during the Bosnian war. SEAN GALLUP/GETTY IMAGES FILE

Canada boycotts UN justice meeting

War crimes. Ambassadors protest Bosnian victim being thrown out of meeting

Proper process

"Supporting the tribunals and courts means respecting — and not calling into question — their independence, impartiality and integrity."

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, in defence of war-crimes tribunals.

Canada, the United States and Jordan boycotted a meeting on international criminal justice organized by the Serbian president of the General Assembly on Wednesday, offended that it didn't include Bosnia's war victims, and attacked the UN war-crimes tribunal for the former Yugoslavia.

To protest the victims' exclusion, the UN ambassadors from Jordan and Liechtenstein hosted a press conference for two victims groups — the Mothers of Srebrenica and the Association of Witnesses and Survivors of Genocide — while assembly president Vuk Jeremic, the former foreign minister of Serbia, presided over the assembly meeting.

Munira Subasic, president of the Mothers of Srebrenica, who lost 22 close family members in the 1995 massacre by Bosnian Serbs, said she was allowed into the assembly meeting as "a silent observer." She listened as Serbia's ultra-nationalist President Tomislav Nikolic criticized the Yugoslav tribunal.

She believed that Nikolic was denying the genocide in Srebrenica, so she said she put on a T-shirt she had brought as a gift for Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, which said: "Justice Is Slow But It's Reachable."

"All of a sudden I was surrounded by security of Vuk Jeremic" and escorted out of the conference room, Subasic said.

In a lengthy speech soon after, Serbia's Nikolic protested against the "lynch-mobbing of Serbia" and accused the Yugoslav tribunal of "selective justice" by seeking to punish Serbs while overlooking the crimes of Bosnians and Croats.

Aware of the controversy, Ban gave his "full and unequivocal support" to all international tribunals in an opening speech. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Steven Smith, sentenced to death. OHIO DEPARTMENT OF REHABILITATION AND CORRECTIONS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

No mercy for man who raped, killed baby

A parole board on Wednesday rejected a plea for mercy by a condemned man who says he intended to rape his girlfriend's six-month-old daughter, but not to kill her, calling his crime "among the worst of the worst."

The Ohio Parole Board recommended unanimously that Gov. John Kasich allow the execution of Steven Smith to proceed next month.

The board said some arguments for sparing Smith, such as his turbulent childhood, were far outweighed by the nature of the crime.

"Smith took the life of an innocent six-month-old infant while using the baby to sexually gratify himself," the board said. "It is hard to fathom a crime more repulsive or reprehensible in character. It is clearly among the worst of the worst."

The victim, Autumn Carter, died because Smith was too drunk to realize his assault was killing her, Smith's attorneys argued in court filings with the Ohio Parole Board, which heard the case last week. And Ohio law is clear, they said: A death sentence requires an intent to kill the victim.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Is Canada failing its children?

Nation ranks 17th out of 29 wealthy countries when it comes to the well-being of our children, according to a new study from UNICEF, the United Nations children's agency.

THE CANADIAN PRESS
Photos: Torstar News Service/Getty Images/The Canadian Press File

Ranking 'isn't good enough': UNICEF Canada

UNICEF graded the 29 countries in five categories and Canada's best ranking was 11th in the area of housing and environment. David Morley, UNICEF Canada's president and CEO, says the report shows there's a lot of work to be done.
"The fact that our children rank in the bottom half when compared to other industrialized nations simply isn't good enough," Morley said.

Youth smoking pot, not smokes

Canada scored third-best on smoking, with UNICEF saying only four per cent of children aged 11, 13 and 15 reported smoking at least once a week.

The same can't be said for cannabis, with Canada sitting 29th and last with 28 per cent of children saying they have used cannabis within the past year.

Bullying still a major concern

Canada ranked 21st in bullying, with 35 per cent of children aged 11, 13 and 15 reporting being bullied at school at least once in the past couple of months.

More than 1 in 5 have bloated BMI

When it comes to obesity, Canada is third from the bottom, with 20.24 per cent of children aged 11, 13 and 15 deemed overweight based on the body mass index.

A substandard well-being

Canada ranked 14th in educational well-being, 15th in material well-being, 16th in behaviour and risks and a low 27th in health and safety. "It is clear Canada can do better," Morley said. "Protecting and promoting the well-being of our children must become a national priority."

Dutch top list as Canada plummets

The Netherlands remains the overall leader in the study and is the only country ranked among the top five in all dimensions of child well-being.

Meanwhile, Canada's overall ranking drops seven places to 24th when children's views of their own life satisfaction are measured. Only five Eastern European countries rank lower than Canada in this category.

Docs often not told of side-effects by drug reps: Study

Public health concern. Minimum standard for drug safety info met in less than 2% of company sales calls

Most family doctors say they receive little or no information about harmful effects of medications when visited by drug-company sales representatives promoting their products, a survey of Canadian, U.S. and French physicians has found.

Even so, many of the doctors surveyed said they were likely to start prescribing or increase prescriptions of promoted drugs following sales rep visits, consistent with previous research that shows prescribing behaviour is influenced by pharmaceutical companies' promotion.

A new study suggests doctors aren't always told of harmful effects by drug sellers. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

"Harm from medication use is a serious public-health concern," said Barbara Mintzes, principal researcher of a survey study. "So the information quality, and doctors getting complete information on medicines, is important."

For the study, published online Wednesday in the Journal of General Internal Medicine, the researchers asked 255 family doctors in Montreal, Vancouver, Sacramento and Toulouse, France, to fill out a questionnaire each time they were visited by a drug-company rep.

In all, the physicians provided information on almost 1,700 drug promotions between May 2009 and June 2010.

Pharmaceutical sales reps regularly visit doctors' offices to promote their products, providing information, often free samples and, in some cases, food and invitations to events. Since 2005, France has prohibited free drug samples and gifts to doctors.

"What we found was that that information was hardly ever being provided," said Mintzes, who works at the school of population and public health at the University of British Columbia. Overall, "it was provided in less than two per cent of the promotions to doctors."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bullied teen. Family of Rehtaeh Parsons says they were failed by system

The family of a 17-year-old girl that has gone public about her suicide after months of bullying say they were stymied at practically every turn when they tried to get help for the troubled teen.

Jason Barnes, the longtime boyfriend of Rehtaeh Parsons' mother, said a sad string of failures ultimately led to the girl's death more than a year after she was allegedly sexually assaulted by four boys.

"No matter where her mother turned to try to get help for her, no matter where Rehtaeh tried to turn to get help, all she had was her family," Barnes said on Wednesday.

"The justice system failed us completely. The education system didn't seem to do much of anything."

The RCMP say they investigated the sexual-assault allegations after consulting with the province's Public Prosecution Service but concluded there weren't enough grounds to lay charges.

"She was very upset, very devastated from that," Barnes said.

Earlier in the day, Rehtaeh's family met with Nova Scotia Justice Minister Ross Landry after he announced Tuesday night that his department was looking for ways to review how the RCMP handled the allegations. THE CANADIAN PRESS

The Halifax Regional School Board says it took a hands-off approach in the alleged assault of Rehtaeh Parsons, not wanting to interfere with the RCMP. FACEBOOK

Canadian rocker

Woman recalls 'sick relationship' with Tim Bachman

A co-founder of iconic Canadian rock band Bachman-Turner Overdrive had a sexual relationship with a girl between the age of 11 and 14, a B.C. judge was told this week. "I felt the relationship was very sick," Stacy Bohun, 24, recalled during court testimony in B.C. Supreme Court, where Tim Bachman is on trial for sexual assault and sexual interference of a person under 14. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Birth-control recall

Gynecology group warns Alysena 28 users

Women who may have taken birth-control pills from faulty packs should use a backup form of contraception, the Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists of Canada said on Wednesday. Women may also need to talk to their doctors about taking a pregnancy test. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Porter seeks to land jets on T.O. waterfront

Controversial plan.
Airline's request to change rules is bound to draw residents' ire

Bob Deluce, left, president and CEO of Porter Airlines, sits with Bombardier's president Mike Arcamone in a Bombardier CS100 aircraft Wednesday. Deluce announced the airline's purchase of 12 of the planes, with an option for a further 18, at a news conference in Toronto. CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Porter Airlines says it will seek permission to fly Bombardier CS100 jets out of Toronto's small waterfront airport and hopes to begin serving destinations across North America after the first new planes are delivered in 2016.

Jets are currently not allowed to fly out of the Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport, which is on an island near the city's lakefront, except under special circumstances.

However, the airline said Wednesday it will seek to have the rules changed so that it can fly the jets to destinations such as Vancouver, Los Angeles and Florida that its current fleet of turboprops can't reach.

Porter said it will also seek permission to extend the main runway at the airport by 168 metres at each end. The current rules are part of a tripartite agreement between the City of Toronto, the federal government and the Toronto Port Authority — making it difficult to get quick action from the necessary authorities.

However, Porter president and chief executive Robert Deluce said Porter expects to have all the needed approvals within six months that will allow the airline to create 1,000 new jobs.

Industry analyst Robert Kokonis said there's a big risk that Porter's plans will never happen because of expected opposition to the airport expansion from Toronto residents and environmentalists.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

U.K. Retailers ration baby milk powder to cope with surge in Chinese demand

Demand for baby milk formula is surging in Britain, but it seems likely the powder is going to babies thousands of miles away.

British retailers said Wednesday they are limiting purchases of baby milk powder to two tins per customer after noticing some people were buying unusually large quantities in stores, apparently to export to China for profit.

Danone, the dairy manufacturer, said it has significantly increased production of powdered baby milk in response to the bulk-buying trend.

"We understand that the increased demand is a result of unofficial exports to China to satisfy the needs of Chinese parents who want international brands for their babies," Danone, which makes Aptamil and Cow & Gate baby formulas, said in a statement.

Baby formula made by foreign brands is in great demand in China, where parents have been wary of local dairy products since a contaminated milk scandal left six babies dead in 2008. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A sign limiting the purchase of baby milk formula powder hangs on a shelf in a supermarket in London, U.K. KIRSTY WIGGLESWORTH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sticky situation

BMO lauded for being nice to mice

BMO is getting a Compassionate Company Award and a big box of vegan chocolates shaped like mice from People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals. After learning from PETA about the cruelty of using sticky glue traps to kill mice, BMO banned the devices from its approximately 900 locations nationwide. METRO

Market Minute

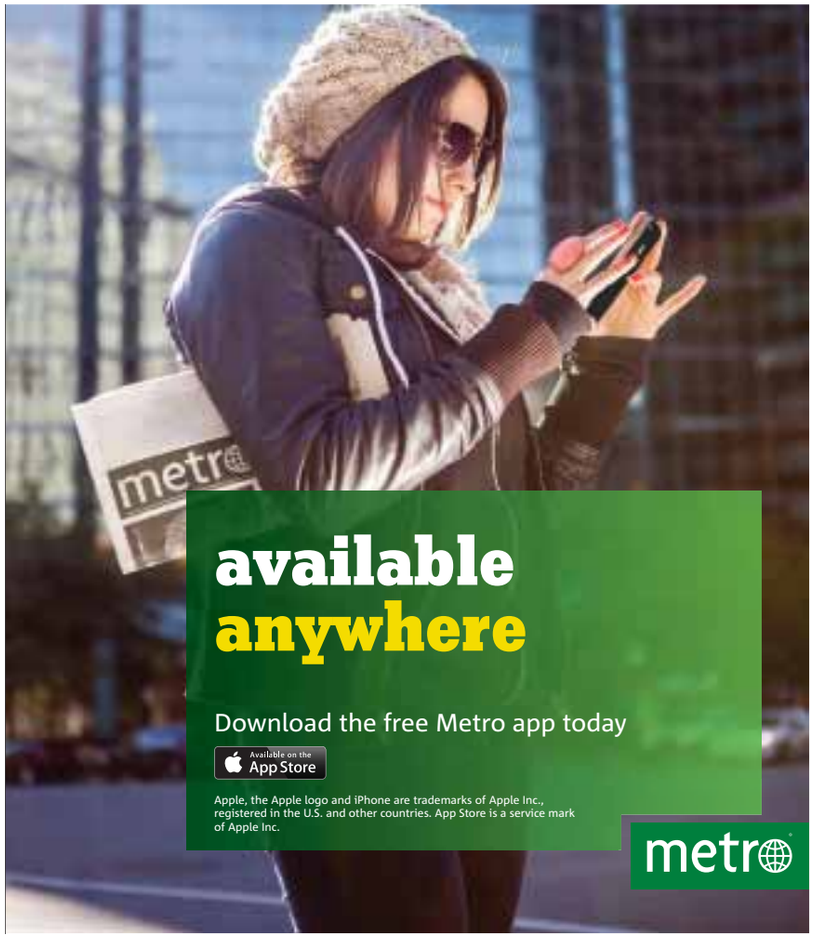
DOLLAR 98.58¢ (+0.18¢)

TSX 12,534.91 (+50.85)

OIL $94.64 US (+44¢)

GOLD $1,558.80 US (-$27.90)

Natural gas: $4.10 US (+8¢)
Dow Jones: 14,802.24 (+128.78)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Carriers split from wireless lobby

Three of Canada's new wireless carriers say they will better serve their customers outside the industry's lobby group, which they accuse of favouring Rogers, Bell and Telus.

Wind Mobile, Public Mobile and Mobilicity say three-year contracts, roaming rates and tower sharing were among irritants that made them leave the Canadian Wireless Telecommunications Association.

The three small carriers accused the association of taking positions on these issues that favoured Canada's big three carriers. "Instead of spinning our wheels internally, we will be able to focus the time and energy on helping Canadian consumers," Mobilicity's director of legal affairs, Gary Wong, said Wednesday.

Quoted

"There's no negative impact on consumers here whatsoever. We feel like we are going to do a better job in lobbying ... as a result of us exiting the association."

Bob Boron, senior vice-president and chief legal and regulatory officer at Public Mobile

Public Mobile, Wind Mobile and Mobilicity don't ask their customers to sign contracts for mobile phones and have brought more competition to the market since they launched about three years ago.

The three small companies are expected to have just over six per cent of the market at the end of this year, up from just under five per cent at the end of 2012, the Convergence Consulting Group has estimated.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Pilfering in Paris

Pickpocket protest closes Louvre

The Louvre was closed Wednesday as workers walked off their jobs to protest what's said to be a rising problem of pickpockets haunting the museum's galleries. Staff organized the protest to draw attention to the problem, which they say is hindering their ability to welcome visitors and protect the Louvre's collections. A spokeswoman was unable to say when the museum would reopen.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEWS NOT FIT FOR PRINT

HE SAYS

John Mazerolle
metronews.ca

I have a lot of esteemed titles — freelance writer, ex-husband, that guy in Metro — but none bring me more respect than editor-in-chief of Canada's most dignified newspaper, The Beaver Examiner.

Perhaps you've heard of it. With mission statements to "keep fake news real" and "treat every week like shark week," The BeEx has been bringing insightful Canadian news to reader(s) since 2005, updated any time — day or night — once every several months.

As you'll see below, The Beaver Examiner is unencumbered by fact-checking, spelchecking or any of the other quaint traditions that hold back so many newspapers (seven worldwide as of press time). Enjoy and be enlightened!

The Beaver Examiner News Briefs: Proudly Independent From Facts

- Rescuers Say 751,171 People Stranded In New Brunswick NEAR THE N.B. BORDER – Emergency crews are being urgently dispatched to the province of New Brunswick today, after it was discovered that 751,171 people have been stranded there for the entire winter.

Rescuers said they are having a difficult time accessing the area, due to a lack of affordable airfare and fear of becoming stranded themselves.

"We're hoping for the best, but we hear there may be 69,000 people in Moncton alone," said rescue co-ordinator Kerry Chandler, choking back tears.

Chandler said it was the most shocking disaster he and his staff can recall since rescuers stumbled upon several million people crammed into squalid conditions in downtown Toronto.

- Unusually Skilled Witness to Shooting Knew Immediately Gunshots Were Gunshots VANCOUVER – Burnaby resident Tom Mayer, a skilled witness to tragedy and unusually adept innocent passerby, knew immediately that a gunshot he heard while leaving a bar in the Vancouver downtown was a gunshot.

"I heard a 'pop, pop' sound and I thought 'gunshots!' right away," the wise-beyond-his-peers Mayer said. "Definitely not a firecracker, firework, or car backfiring." Mayer said the tragedy that injured four didn't seem at all like an action movie, "because that's kind of stupid."

Mayer said he picked up his witnessing acumen years ago when he saw a Cessna crash that he knew instantly had nothing to do with terrorism.

- Prone Man Criticizes Goaltender's Positioning WINNIPEG – Rick McHutchion, a Manitoba man who had been lying on his back on his couch for almost three hours, expressed disgust at the positioning of Winnipeg Jets goaltender Ondřej Pavelec during Tuesday's game against the Buffalo Sabres.

"He looks terrible out there," said McHutchion, as he fished awkwardly for the final chip in a bag resting on his ample stomach. "He should be embarrassed."

McHutchion added that the Winnipeg defence is lazy, and that he'd change the channel in disgust if the remote wasn't so far away.

And that's a look at the award-wanting news coverage The Beaver Examiner brings every single day that I feel like it.

Check in next week when we'll examine a new survey that shows that nine out of 10 government scientists, when asked about being "muzzled" by the federal government, said "Mphm! Mphm!"

ZOOM

Why take the stairs when ...

SOLENT NEWS AND PHOTO AGENCY

... sliding into the office is a breeze

British IT company Peer 1 Hosting has unleashed the most enjoyable office ever. Their design makeover came complete with cinema, pub, pool table, golf course, tree house and giant helter-skelter slide. METRO

Other fun offices

- **Google:** Zurich. It's fitting that the tech giants put effort into their office. There is a rule to be never more than 100 metres from food, while an aquarium and library provide relaxation.
- **Comvert:** Milan. The clothing company has an indoor skating rink suspended above their desks to blow off steam.
- **DTAC:** Bangkok. Mobile-phone providers have a whole building and a floor for activities, featuring indoor soccer, table tennis, running track, and concert hall.
- **Selgas Cano:** Madrid. This architecture firm has designed their building to blend into the Spanish forest.

Clickbait

ANDREW FIFIELD
andrew.fifield@metronews.ca

Most of us amateurs have strengthened our Instagram chops considerably since those heady early days of documenting pets, parks and undeserving food. But we still have a long way to go before catching up to these iPhone-slinging pros.

AikBeng Chia:
With iPhone in pocket, AikBeng Chia wanders the streets of Singapore to provide a series of all-hours glimpses of the city's people, art and architecture. @aikbengchia

Robert Paul Jansen:
A Dutch photographer who whiles away his spare hours by shooting the beautiful, frequently fog-shrouded Netherlands landscape. @robertpauljansen

Benedicte Guillon:
A Paris street photographer with an uncanny eye for capturing one of the world's most photogenic cities. Vacation vicariously in your pocket. @iphoneographic

Twitter

@metropicks asked: @Oprah is in trouble for backing skin cream derived from baby foreskins. What's your not-so-sketchy beauty secret?

@MisterInsight: I don't use any product, natural beauty is as fine as it comes

@jpadamson: Coconut oil as a hair conditioner and as a moisturizer. Smells great! Moisturizing! And you smell delicious!

Follow @metropicks and take part in our daily poll.

Letters

RE: Daredevil Raccoon Performs High-Wire Stunt, published April 9

I can have positivity with regards to raccoons. I'm positive they are a health hazard. I'm positive they are a pest. I'm positive there needs to be a raccoon control program. **Myworkisdonehere posted to metronews.ca**

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU:
Send us your comments: londonletters@metronews.ca

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Putting things in perspective

Art. Local legend's exhibit inspired by trains

BACKSTAGE PASS
Mila Petkovic
london@metronews.ca

Some big-name artists have found their way into The Michael Gibson Gallery.

The gallery (157 Carling St.), until April 27, is hosting two special exhibits: one that recreates a 1982 exhibition with works from Greg Curnoe, Paterson Ewen, Gathie Falk and Ron Moppett and another by London music and art legend Murray Favro.

Favro was part of a generation of London artists who became nationally recognized in the 1960s (Jack Chambers, Greg Curnoe, Ron Martin and others). His current exhibition is called Tracks.

"I was waiting for the train, you know those long CP trains you have to sit in your car and wait for. I was totally bored, but I started listening intensely to the sound of the train, and recorded it," Favro, guitar player of the internationally recognized noise group Nihilist Spasm Band, said about his inspiration.

The artist has built three large-scale installations inspired by train tracks.

In the pieces, he plays around with perspective.

"It has to do with the way you look at things. We always see in perspective, but we are not really aware of it. It gets kind of lost," said Favro, who is fascinated by inventions and technology. "I ask myself, 'If technology had been started again, could I make these things with stuff around my house?'"

He enjoys working with his hands, using materials like wood and steel.

"It's about making, not just thinking. The works partly form themselves. You are kind of an observer watching it happen," the artist explained.

His piece Potato Peeler and Drawing in a Sketch Book is made from two metal pipes welded together.

"We have a few potato peelers lying around the house, and they aren't very good. I thought, 'I can make a better one than this,'" he said. "It ended up looking a bit like a spaceship."

The artist used his audio recordings of the train and a watermill to replace traditional drum tracks when he played with his former band the Luddites.

Favro's artwork has been the subject of a major retrospective organized by the Art Gallery of Ontario. He received the Governor General's Award in Visual and Media Arts in 2007.

Murray Favro is pictured at Forest City Gallery. The musician and artist has work on display through April 27 at the Michael Gibson Gallery. MILA PETKOVIC/FOR METRO

Around town

- **Music.** The Forest City Gallery (258 Richmond St.), jam space of the noise group Nihilist Spasm Band, is hosting an experimental music night featuring Wolfcow, Fleshtone Aura and Brian Ruryk at 8 p.m. Friday. Tickets are $5.
- **Graphica.** The Pride Library will launch its latest special collection, Queer Graphica, during an event from 4 to 5 p.m. Thursday in Room 107 of Western University's Weldon Library.

LONDON ARTISTS' STUDIO TOUR 2013

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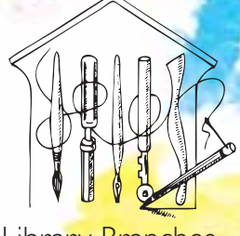
Sat., April 13, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Sun., April 14, noon to 5 p.m.



Brochures available at Museum London, Library Branches
Or online at **www.londonstudiotour.com**

NEED A RIDE?
Read metro drive every Wednesday.

Ebert defended indefensible

Reviewing his reviews. A look at the more controversial selections from the former film critic

MATT PRIGGE
Metro World News

Roger Ebert was the most famous film critic in the world, but he was also a film critic, which is to say fallible.

For all the classics he praised right out of the gate, or the ones he collected in his ever-swelling canon of The Great Movies, he got some wrong, or simply added to the dogpile on films, like Ishtar or Heaven's Gate, that could have used a powerful friend.

But it's easy — and smug — to admonish critics for missing the boat when one has 20/20 hindsight.

(And easier still to neglect that having a major player say Blue Velvet was crap actually enriched the discussion of the film by forcing its fans to better articulate their praises.)

But let's not dwell on his so-called failures, which ought not even to be called that.

In honour of his recent passing, let's look at several films that everyone — or almost everyone — either hated or treated with apathy except that guy at the Chicago Sun-Times who was on that show with the skinny guy.

Reflections in a Golden Eye (1967)

One of the first things he did, as a fresh-faced 25-year-old, was do what all critics ought to do: stand up for a movie that no one liked and whose studio was doing its best to suppress. John Huston's film was an on-simmer survey of a Southern army base, populated by a closeted major (Marlon Brando) and his jilting wife (Elizabeth Taylor).

Ebert's review describes the hostile atmosphere at the screening and praised Brando's performance as his best in a period during which he flailed.

Bring Me the Head of Alfredo Garcia (1974)

Though it's today (mostly) acknowledged as one of Sam Peckinpah's masterpieces, his grimy, bad tequila-soaked, fly-ridden tale of a man (Warren Oates) who literally has to bring someone the head of a guy named Alfredo Garcia was once considered a legendary bomb.

Ebert was among the prescient, not to mention perceptive, calling it "some kind of bizarre masterpiece."

Saint Jack (1979)

Ebert was a staunch defender of the terrific Saint Jack, in which Ben Gazzara plays a Singapore pimp trying to eke by. At one point Gazzara pisses off local hoodlums, who tattoo his arms with vulgarities, which Ebert described as "a more diabolical and satisfactory form of gangland revenge than the concrete overcoat."

The Cotton Club (1984)

Every film needs a defender, even the so-called indefensible, and for this Ebert was the man.

"It has the confidence and momentum of a movie where every shot was premeditated — and even if we know that wasn't the case, and this was one of the most troubled productions in recent movie history,

what difference does that make when the result is so entertaining?"

Mad Max Beyond Thunderdome (1984)

To Ebert, who wrote trash cinema himself, it was just part of the business of loving movies. He afforded masterpiece status to the third in George Miller's Mad Max series, claiming that Thunderdome, the centerpiece arena, "is the

first really original movie idea about how to stage a fight since we got the first karate movies."

Dark City (1998)

No one else of note had spoken of it as highly as Ebert did, and the film bombed, but he stuck by his guns, affording it a second, even third life. Ebert even recorded a commentary track for the DVD and would tour around with it for special screenings.

Synecdoche, New York (2008)

Roger Ebert wasn't the only person to highly praise Charlie Kaufman's highly divisive directorial debut, but he was one of the few to almost put it on his all time top 10. He didn't but that's praise nonetheless.

Femme Fatale (2002)

At the time it was slammed by the majority of publications and bombed.

Ebert was blunt about it.

"This is pure filmmaking, elegant and slippery. I haven't had as much fun second-guessing a movie since Mulholland Drive."

Yes, and good job finding the right contemporary movie to which to compare it.

Tom Cruise admits to being caught off guard by divorce

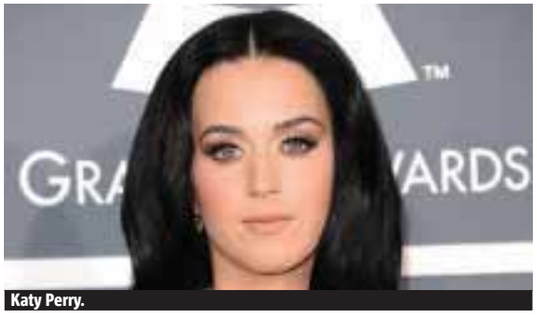
Tom Cruise is finally opening up about his divorce from Katie Holmes, which caught most of Hollywood off guard. And it turns out it caught Cruise off guard as well.

"I didn't expect it," he says in an interview with German TV station ProSieben.

"To be 50 and to have experiences and to think you have a grip on everything, and then it hits you — this is it, what life can do to you. Life is a tragicomedy. You need to have a sense of humour."

Tom Cruise.

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES



Katy Perry.

Perry ridding herself of Brand

Katy Perry is quickly unloading any remnants from her marriage to Russell Brand, including the Hollywood Hills home he bought in 2011 and then relinquished to her following their divorce, according to Us Weekly.

Perry is listing the seven-bedroom, 11-bath home for $6.925 million. It sits on a three-acre compound near the Chateau Marmont.

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Gosling has kind words to say about Britney Spears

Growing up as co-stars on the Mickey Mouse Club made for some interesting run-ins between Ryan Gosling and Britney Spears — at least to hear Gosling tell it.

"Britney was a sweetheart," Gosling tells the U.K.'s Sunday Times magazine.

"She lived right above me, the girl next door. The little girl I used to play basketball and spin the bottle with."

Old pals

"She lived right above me, the girl next door. The little girl I used to play basketball and spin the bottle with."

Ryan Gosling
Talking about Britney Spears.

Their other Clubmembers included Justin Timberlake, Christina Aguilera and Keri Russell.

"I mean, sometimes you are at the same event, but it's a lot like I imagine what it's like to run into someone from elementary school," he says of how the old gang relates to each other now.

Twitter

@joelmchale
Last week my 5yr old walked out on our hotel balcony & repeatedly screamed GIVE ME MONEY. I thought "Wow, someday he will be a great leader"

@pattonoswalt
Sure, Diddy is dating @KateUpton. But did he win @esquiremag's Twitter War? Did he? DID HE?!? (Hugs crown, bursts into tears)

@SteveMartinToGo
When I was twelve, I wanted to launch a missile, too.

Lindsay Lohan.

Lohan pal looked to Liza to get the troubled star back on track

Lindsay Lohan was nearly given quite the talking to by Liza Minnelli late last year when the legendary singer was reportedly approached by a Lohan pal to stage an intervention, according to Radar Online.

Lohan's friend, Claus Hjelmbak, was the one who is said to have reached out to Minnelli.

"He was so concerned for her well-being because of her continued use of prescription pills and booze," a source says. "He reached out to Liza Minnelli's camp, in the hope that she could help. Liza has battled her own demons with alcohol and has been very supportive publicly of Lindsay. Claus thought that if anyone could get through to Lindsay, Liza could be that person."

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LAURA MVULA

British singer Laura Mvula sounds like Nina Simone and is being called the next Adele. She talks to us about her personal style.

'I'M AN EXPLORER'

KENYA HUNT
Metro World News in London

Laura Mvula's anthemic single, That's Alright, is a declaration against all of the unrealistic beauty standards promoted in magazines that make women second-guess themselves: "I will never be what you want and that's alright. Cause my skin ain't light and my body ain't tight. And that's alright."

So it's not surprising that the Brit who is often described as this generation's answer to Nina Simone would be equally secure in her sense of personal style.

As she prepares to go on tour in support of her new album, Sing to the Moon, she opens up about her natural hair, crush on Vivienne Westwood and weakness for big heels.

Styling around her natural hair

"My hair is very short, so it's important for me to feel soft and feminine. I like to think I'm a warm person. I like to soften my image as much as possible so that my short hair isn't overly strong or intimidating."

Her stage persona versus her off-duty one

"I think the two go alongside each other. Even things like being practical, which isn't my strongest point as a person. Sometimes I'm standing at a keyboard, and I want to wear my big heels. I love my big heels. But even though I might have a specific image and vision in my head, it also has to be comfortable for me to wear. I think what I wear will change as I work with bigger ensembles. At the moment simplicity is really important to me. I want to come off the stage feeling comfortable, like I've been able to move and not think about this wrap falling off my head or the length of my skirt."

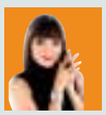
On figuring out her look

"I'm an explorer. My dad used to say that I was always the kid in the wardrobe trying on ridiculous pieces together and thinking somehow that they would work. I think a lot about my style and my image, which is really important to me. Even though I do feel like a baby when it comes to fashion. I still feel very much at the beginning of it all."

Her ultimate fashion fantasy

"I dream about Vivienne Westwood. When I was getting married, I spent a lot of time dreaming about her dresses. But to have this kind of (professional) opportunity makes (her clothes) more attainable. I've worn some of her pieces before. They're so elegant, pretty and feminine."

Twitter



JEANNE SPACE
Jeanne Beker
life@metronews.ca

TWITTER HAS BECOME A COOL AND SUCCINCT WAY OF COMMUNICATING. IT ALLOWS ME TO BE ACCESSIBLE, INSTANTLY SPEAK MY MIND AND CONNECTS ME WITH ALL KINDS OF PEOPLE. WHETHER IT'S A FASHION QUESTION OR YOU JUST WANT TO COMMENT ON LIFE'S BIGGER PICTURE, I'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU.

Loving my new @EDITbyJeanneB sunglasses! 6 styles available at most @ TheHudsonsBayCo stores across Canada. $44 a pr.

Look who I just ran into! About to intvw the babe-acious Nia Vardalos @theloopca about her new book "Instant Mom".

The Kit

Canadian street style

Spotted in: Vancouver

Kayla Damiani

Server/ Restaurant Manager

Age: 29

What she's wearing
BCBG hat, Free People coat, Alexander Wang T-shirt, Will bag, Urban Outfitters shoes.

Her inspiration
"This is my special downtown weekend! I'm meeting a good friend for coffee."

THE KIT PHOTOBLOGGER: MEGHAN TANSEY WHITTON, FASHIONEASTHALIFAX.COM

THE KIT IS A MULTI-PLATFORM BEAUTY AND FASHION BRAND WHICH INCLUDES AN INTERACTIVE MAGAZINE AND DYNAMIC APP, A WEBSITE, KIT CHAT – AN E-NEWSLETTER PROGRAM – AND A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER SECTION TOO!

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Maple syrup makes a crispy wok winner

This recipe serves four to six. GAV MARTELL OF YUMMYMUMMYCLUB.CA

GAV MARTELL
Yummymummyclub.ca

Rather than using sugar, this dish calls for some Canadian maple syrup for sweetness. The sweetness contrasted with the zip of the red wine vinegar makes this Crispy Maple Beef a morsel by morsel mouth-pleasing wok winner.

1. Mix the beef, baking soda, and 3 tablespoons of water in a medium bowl. Cover, and refrigerate for 4 hours or overnight (the baking soda will tenderize the steak).

2. Sauce, mix the syrup, vinegar, soy sauce and cornstarch in a small bowl. Set aside.

3. Heat a large wok over high heat. Add enough vegetable oil to come about 1 1/2 inches up the sides of the wok, and heat to 375 degrees F. Meanwhile, add the cornstarch and egg white to the beef, and mix well to coat.

4. Cook the beef one small batch at a time (about 1/2 cup) so that it does not bring the temperature of the oil too low. Stir gently until it begins to look crispy, about 1 minute. Using a wire mesh strainer, transfer the beef to a colander to drain. Remove any fried bits from the wok.

5. Return beef to wok, and fry again until crispy all over, about 2 minutes. Transfer to a strainer to drain. Discard all but 1 tablespoon of oil from the wok.

6. Return the wok to high heat. Add the beef, sauce mixture and sesame oil. Stir-fry until all of the ingredients are well blended, about 30 seconds. Serve immediately over steamed rice. **YUMMYMUMMYCLUB.CA IS AN ONLINE RESOURCE TO HELP WOMEN SURVIVE MOTHERHOOD.**

Ingredients

- 1 lb stir-fry beef
- 1 1/2 tsp baking soda
- 3 tbsp water
- Vegetable oil
- 1 cup cornstarch
- 1 large egg white, lightly beaten
- 1 tsp sesame oil
- 3 cups prepared white rice

Sauce

- 4 tbsp maple syrup
- 4 tbsp red wine vinegar
- 2 tbsp soy sauce
- 1 tsp cornstarch

For your phone

Swirl It! (iPhone; free)

MIND THE APP
Kris Abel
@RealKrisAbel
life@metronews.ca

A wine diary to remember the wines you've had at the restaurants you visit.

"Swirl" the good ones and "Spit" the bad, then watch the app figure out your palette.

Dinner. Kind of Carpaccio

Carpaccio is an Italian dish of thinly sliced and lightly seasoned raw steak. This recipe preserves the essence of carpaccio, but adds both the texture and taste of a light sear to the exterior.

1. In bowl, whisk mirin, 1 teaspoon salt and 1 teaspoon pepper. Add the steaks, turning to coat evenly, then refrigerate for at least 20 minutes and up to an hour.

2. When ready to cook, in a large skillet over medium-high, heat the oil until very hot but not smoking. Add the steaks and sear on each side for 1 1/2 minutes. Transfer the steaks to a platter and let rest for 5 minutes.

3. Once the steaks have rested, thinly slice them across the grain. Fan the slices onto 2 serving plates, then season with salt and pepper. Squeeze 1 or 2 lemon wedges over each. Serve. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Ingredients

- 1/4 cup mirin
- Kosher salt and coarsely ground black pepper
- Two 6-oz bison steaks
- 1 tbsp vegetable oil
- 1 lemon, cut into wedges

This designer eye stays Canadian

Shop the tried-and-true retailers that were born here

DESIGN CENTRE
Karl Lohnes
home@metronews.ca

With the recent hoopla about new fashion and decor retailers invading Canada, I thought I'd pay homage to the home decor retailers who have been born and bred in this country.

I've always believed we have consistently been home to the best, and with a good style-eye, anyone can find attractive, on-trend home decor items for less than what others might expect.

The trick to an interesting decor is to mix various price points and styles that compliment each other. If you are looking for some well-priced accessories, here's a list of my favourite items from nationally available — and Canadian-born — retail and online stores.

EQ3

Born 12 years ago, the Winnipeg-based furniture manufacturer now has 11 stores in Canada and a comprehensive website that allows online shoppers to purchase affordable modern furnishings from coast to coast. Made in Canada upholstered furnishings are great quality and excellent value.

Matt Rocker, $599, eq3.com

Urban Barn

Founded by two high school friends 23 years ago, BC's born-and-bred home furnishings retailer boasts 41 locations and a comprehensive website. Trend-conscious shoppers can find amazingly priced furnishings and home accessories that change seasonally. Look for semi-custom furniture and carpets, trendsetting decorative objects and art. My favourite piece at the moment is a modern deco inspired bookcase that would act perfectly as a room divider as well.

Biblioteca Bookcase, $699, urbanbarn.com

Simons

The esteemed family-owned retailer from Quebec has been in the fashion and housewares business for more than 170 years — it recently opened a new store in Edmonton. Canadians can even shop for their home decor online. Its bedding and tabletop linens always please me and Simons' imported lines are hard to find elsewhere. I am always impressed with the bedding: great quality, well priced and some very interesting designs.

New York Duvet Cover Set, from $130, simons.ca

Homesense

The domestic spin-off of discount fashion retailer Winners, Homesense boasts prices 20 to 60 per cent less than other retailers. With around 90 stores coast-to-coast, savvy home decor shoppers are sure to enjoy quality brands at discount prices. Homesense is my go-to for decorative pillows in designer styles, fabrics and fills (many have posh down/feather fills) that would cost five times the price elsewhere.

Designer-style pillows, from $14, homesense.ca

Over-dyed semi-antique patchwork rugs, from $200, ecarpetgallery.com

eCarpetGallery

Based in Montreal, this importer of new, vintage and antique rugs is known for its free shipping, fast delivery and exceptional pricing. Without a showroom and commissioned sales staff, this online business can offer the best prices in Canada. The rugs are imported, handmade and, in many cases, vintage, which makes them classics to collect and keep forever. Right now I am crazy for the over-dyed Persians and patchwork rugs that are a fraction of the cost of the high-end rug retailers.

When prospective buyers or renters drive through your neighbourhood, what do they see? NEWSCANADA

Curb appeal puts your home in big demand

Home. First impression is critical when setting the mood for prospective buyers

A clean and tidy yard is the best way to improve curb appeal. NEWSCANADA

In a market where sellers are in competition to make the most out of their largest investment, improving your home's first impression is one of the best ways to set it apart from the rest of the pack.

When prospective buyers or renters drive through your neighbourhood, what do they see? This is a really important question that you need to answer because it will help understand what your buyer is going to be looking for in a new home.

Once you've answered this, ask yourself objectively if the front of your home is in keeping with the rest of the houses on your block. The first impression is critical in setting the mood for prospective agents and buyers.

If your home's exterior looks like it needs work, then people immediately assume that it's a fixer-upper. The opposite is true if your front yard is manicured, the roof is in good shape and the driveway is in good condition. Having a potential buyer walk into your front door in a positive mood can translate into big dollars for you.

Both Virginia Tech and the University of Guelph did studies in 2011 that measured the effect of landscaping on property values, and they both came to the same conclusion. To improve curb appeal, basic landscaping increased the home's value by five per cent, but more extensive landscaping, including decks and patios, increased the homes value up to 15 per cent.

So where do you spend the money?

Set your budget and be realistic about what you're trying to accomplish with it. Keep in mind that you are trying to create an excellent first impression to attract potential buyers. This isn't the opportunity for you to realize your landscaping dreams. Consider a new paint job using a colour scheme that highlights the character of your home. Install a new front door or at least update your door's hardware. Even something as simple as full and healthy planters can make a favourable impact.

One of the easiest ways to improve curb appeal is to have a clean and tidy front yard with a manicured lawn. Maybe this is the opportunity to invest in some new tools to help do the job properly. The best part about this type of investment is that not only will your plants and lawn look better with edging, pruning and cutting, you also get to take your new tools with you once you've sold your home.

The technology for landscaping tools has made the purchasing task much easier as well. Now you can get a hedge trimmer, string trimmer or sweeper & vac all in one system. With the Black & Decker 36V Lithium system, for example, you can use the same battery and charger for all three of those tools. A quick prune of the shrubs with the hedge trimmer, followed by a "one-around" with the string trimmer and then tidying up with the sweeper will help you to maintain the front yard in as little as 10 minutes per day.

The goal is to create an emotional connection at the first glance of any prospective buyer, so before you put that sign on the lawn, be sure to spend enough time at the curb.

NEWSCANADA

Ontario Real Estate Association Board

Their mess, your problem?

COSTA POULOPOULOS
Ontario Real Estate Association Board

Do you live next door to an eyesore? You know the kind — a lawn full of weeds, a rusty car in the driveway, peeling paint and a sagging roof.

Not only does this impact the aesthetics of your street but it affects the sale price of your home and can prolong the selling time.

Home sellers can be so focused on the condition of their own home that they forget how important the appearance of their neighbour's house and property is for potential buyers.

There's no doubt that approaching a neighbour whose property is in bad repair is tricky, but it is absolutely worth having that awkward conversation so their mess doesn't overshadow the true value of your home.

Talk to your realtor about the best way to broach the subject with your neighbour. Realtors have experience talking to homeowners about this issue so they won't be fazed. There's almost always a solution and your realtor can help you find the best one without getting emotional or worked up about the issue.

Here's some tried and true tactics to dealing with a messy property next door:

• Talk to your neighbour
Let them know you're planning to sell and gently ask them to clean up their front and back yards. If they are elderly and unable to do the work themselves, offer to look into free or inexpensive services that can help, or even offer to roll up your sleeves and do it yourself.

• Locate the owner
When living beside a renter who's unwilling to assume responsibility, ask your tealtor to help you track down the owner or landlord and speak with them.

• Contact the city
Many municipalities have bylaws about the appearance of lawns and homes. See if any are applicable in your area and speak to a bylaw officer to find a solution.

• Create a diversion
If they refuse to cooperate, detract from their house by placing an eye-catching tree or row of flowers at the entry of your own property.

Lastly, don't be afraid to call for back-up. Remind yourself that if a property is in really bad shape, more often than not your other neighbours will be keen to fix the problem as well. Get together and think of proactive ways of dealing with the issue. Sometimes it's as simple as having a conversation or being prepared to offer a hand when it is a scenario where your neighbour is unable to upkeep their property.

A neighbour's mess can impact the value of your home. ISTOCK IMAGES

Tenant insurance. Give yourself peace of mind

So, you have found your ideal apartment — a two-bedroom basement paradise or a mid-town penthouse or a fantastic south-facing one-bedroom condo. Now it's time to move in right away, right? Sure, start packing, but make sure you also budget for tenant insurance

Perhaps you think you don't need it because you are only renting and you don't own any fancy stuff. But what if something happened — would you have enough set aside to replace all your belongings and to find temporary housing? If you said no, Pina Ferraro-Novello, a corporate underwriter with Desjardins General Insurance Group, would like you to reconsider.

"Tenant insurance is necessary because it protects your property and also covers you in the event that you accidentally cause damage to the property of others," Ferraro-Novello says. "For example, if your bathtub overflowed and flooded the apartment below, destroying your neighbour's property, tenant insurance would protect you. Luckily, it's a simple and affordable coverage. Also, if you're a student, your parents' policy might automatically extend coverage to you at school."

What's typically covered by tenant insurance?

This type of insurance protects you from damage, like fire, theft, certain water damage and vandalism. If your apartment is seriously damaged as a result of an insured loss, tenant insurance would also typically cover your additional living expenses while it's being repaired. Tenant insurance also provides liability coverage if someone gets hurt because of your negligence, like slipping and falling on a wet floor in your apartment, for example.

How much coverage do you need?

The total cost of tenant's insurance will depend largely on the value of your contents. Most renters tend to underestimate what it would cost to replace their belongings. It's smart to take an inventory, including photos, which only takes a few minutes and will make things a lot easier if you experience a loss.

Start by walking from room to room and itemize all the contents.

NEWS CANADA

Before purchasing, research the pros and cons to buying a new condo versus a resale one. PHOTOS.COM/THINKSTOCK

New or used: Which is best suited for you?

RICHARD WOODBURY
For Metro

Newer isn't always better. That's the bottom line when it comes to purchasing a condo since there are many pros and cons to buying a new condo versus a resale one.

Perhaps the biggest advantage to buying a new condo is it will likely be more modern in style.

"You're getting a new product with today's features and finishes," says Josh Nelson, a real estate agent with Royal LePage Foothills in Calgary.

This will also likely include a warranty.

As well, buyers will be able to make the unit more their own by selecting finishes and upgrades.

The condo fees may be lower in a new building, but that isn't necessarily a good thing.

"That's also a big negative in my opinion, in that most of the developers … set these condo fees too low," Nelson says.

Nelson says it takes somewhere between three and five years for a new condo to get a good idea of how it should be spending its money. He says if the condo fees haven't gone up after five years, they will likely go up substantially very soon.

Another downside to a new condo can be that people are often purchasing it when it is nothing more than plans on a piece of paper.

"A plan is a plan and a finished product could be completely different," says Clair Whittington, a broker with MaxWell Altima Realty in Regina.

This is in contrast to a resale condo.

"You know what the finished product is," Whittington says.

Having a finished product with a track record can also provide people with some reassurance.

"You may find a little bit more security in a resale building in that you have been seeing what it has been doing in its past and you can get an idea of where it will be in the future," Nelson says.

RICHARD WOODBURY

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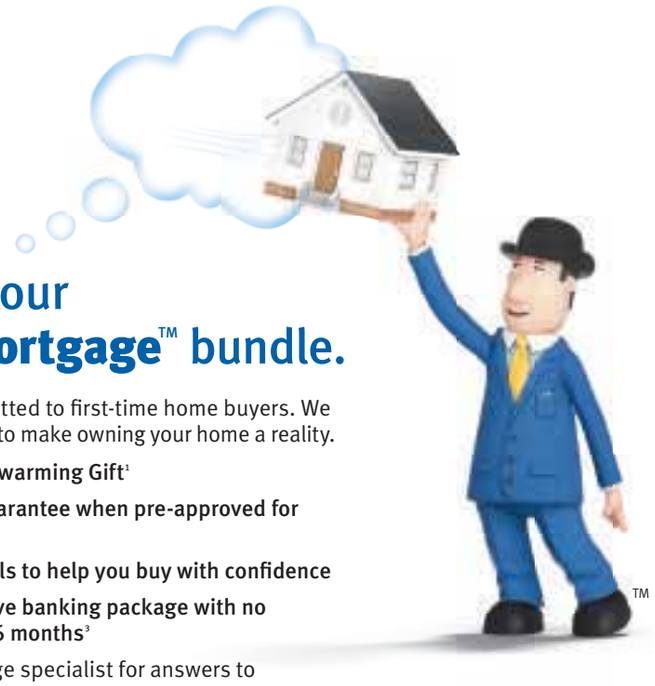

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PEST PROOFING

Pests seek out homes for food and shelter. By understanding the conditions that give pests an opportunity to survive and thrive, you will be better prepared to develop an action plan to remove or limit these conditions, making your apartment a less welcoming place for pests.

Pests will take various routes to find their way into your apartment. Insects enter apartments through poorly sealed or open windows and doors, cracks and crevices in walls or foundations, and openings around pipes and other penetrations. Insects can squeeze through extremely small openings. Vents and air ducts can provide an entry point for birds, rodents and insects. Insects can also attach themselves to pets, or to people and the items they are carrying.

ISTOCK

Look for those roadways in areas such as under the kitchen sink. You may see a gap between the sink drain pipe and the wall or floor. Holes in window screens, gaps around window trim and cracks between the floors and the walls may all offer travel routes for pests. Try to seal off these roadways by:

- Sealing holes in walls around plumbing and electrical lines between apartment units. Look for penetrations in utility closets, under kitchen sinks, behind toilets and sinks in bathrooms. Usually these holes can be sealed with caulking or spray foam.
- Caulking cracks and crevices in cupboards and walls.
- Ensuring window screens are properly fitted and are in good repair to keep flying and crawling insects out.
- Sealing the gap under the corridor to suite door with weatherstripping (Note: this may adversely affect the air quality in your apartment. If you note lingering odours, stale air and high humidity, you may have to remove the weatherstripping.)

Climate: The optimum temperature for many insects is between 20 and 30°C (68-86° F). Most insects will die if exposed to temperatures below -2°C (28°F) or above 45°C (113°F) for a period of time. They generally proliferate at humidity levels between 60% and 80%. Insects need moisture to survive, and some (such as silverfish) thrive on high humidity and standing water.

Water Sources: Many pests are attracted to damp areas. Sources of water and potential insect habitats include kitchens, bathrooms, water pipes in concealed spaces, water in the building envelope, custodial closets, water fountains and climate-control equipment. Standing water in refrigerator condensation pans and air conditioner drain pans can provide water for pests to live on. Water on a roof near a ventilation system intake louver or in other locations can raise humidity levels and provide an excellent environment for insects.

Food sources: Open foods and food waste, dander and dead skin represent food for all types of pests. Potted plants and cut flowers, water in vases and over-watered plants, dead and dying plants, and the nectar and pollen of flowering plants all encourage the presence of pests.

Habitats: Several common pests thrive in small, dark, undisturbed spaces. Insects like to live in dark, tight spaces (such as corrugated boxes and cracks in walls), and are attracted to piles of boxes or other materials left undisturbed for long periods. Insects also live in quiet spaces like concealed corners in cupboards, the undersides of bookcases and behind furniture. Dust and dirt are hospitable environments for many pests. Dead insects or insect debris can also attract other insects. Dirt and clutter make it difficult to see pests, so a problem may go unnoticed for some time.

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OHL

Knights' Tierney cuts down Rangers in OT

Chris Tierney scored the winner at 13:24 of overtime as the London Knights edged the host Kitchener Rangers 4-3 on Wednesday in Ontario Hockey League playoff action.

The Rangers now find themselves down 3-1 in the best-of-seven, second round matchup, despite goaltender John Gibson turning away a career-high 58 shots in defeat.

Seth Griffith had a goal and an assist for the Knights while Matt Rupert and Nikita Zadorov added single goals.

Tierney chipped in an assist for a two-point night and has three goals and 11 points in eight post-season games.

Anthony Stolarz stopped 42-of-45 shots for the win.

Tobias Rieder had a goal and an assist for the Rangers and Ben Fanelli and Justin Bailey scored a goal apiece.

London went 1 for 2 on the power play while Kitchener scored once on five chances with the man advantage.

The Knights can wrap up the series on Friday when they host the Rangers for Game 5 at Budweiser Gardens. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Knights forward Chris Tierney scored Wednesday night's overtime winner to give London a 3-1 series lead over Kitchener. OHL IMAGES

NHL

Budaj given 2-year deal with Montreal

The Montreal Canadiens have signed backup goaltender Peter Budaj to a two-year contract extension.

Budaj has played eight games with the Canadiens this season, posting a 6-1-1 record with a 2.17 goals against average, a .917 saving percentage and one shutout. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Leafs lose, but pick up valuable point in playoff race

Maple Leafs goalie James Reimer reacts to a goal from the Rangers' in the second period of Wednesday night's game at Madison Square Garden in New York. Despite a 3-2 shootout loss, the Leafs stayed on pace to make the post-season for the first time since the spring of 2004, which would end a seven-season playoff drought that is the longest in franchise history. AL BELLO/GETTY IMAGES

Lightning take foot off gas in P.E.I.

NBL. London's chance at three-game sweep thwarted by Storm

JOHN MATISZ
john.matisz@metronews.ca

Game 3

111	99
Storm	Lightning

The momentum bar, previously deadlocked and pointing towards the London Lightning, is now twitching violently in the Summerside Storm's direction.

Sitting pretty with a 2-0 lead in the best-of-five National Basketball League of Canada final series, the Lightning couldn't finish the job Wednesday.

They lost to the second-ranked Storm, 111-99 — a humbling defeat before 2,582 at Credit Union Place. London now holds a 2-1 advantage in the series.

"We just had too many turnovers," Lightning general manager Taylor Brown said when reached on the phone following Game 3.

What ultimately did the Lightning in was the Storm's 40-point third quarter outburst. Tied 45-45 at halftime, London's hope of hoisting the championship trophy in a sweep began to dwindle.

Brown says, "we lost focus defensively" in the third and the Storm "took it to us."

Summerside's Omari Johnson, a six-foot-nine centre from Oregon State University, led all scorers with 33 points. He went 13-for-21 from the field, including 5-for-9 from three-point land, while adding eight rebounds.

Early in the fourth, it looked as if the Lightning were on the verge of mounting a comeback. Guard Morgan Lewis drained a fall down jumper, and a subsequent free-throw, to make it 89-82.

However, poor pick-and-roll defence, coupled with giveaway issues, killed London's chances, Brown said.

Down the stretch, Summerside widened their lead by dominating the boards and converting enough field goals.

"The pressure's still on them," Brown said of Game 4. "They played a great game. They came in, were focused, fed off the energy of the crowd, and won on home court."

London's offensive linchpin, forward Elvin Mims, had an off-night by his standards. A usual 15-point, nine-rebound guy, Mims only managed 13 points and two rebounds.

Sneaky point guard Adrian Moss, a usual 42 per cent shooter for London, went a woeful 1-for-7 in the loss.

Sweepless in Summerside

Finals look similar so far

The London Lightning, NBL regular season champs in consecutive years, seem to be walking down a familiar path in the playoffs, too.

Like this year, they won the first two games of the 2012 NBL Finals before dropping the third match on the road.

Against the Halifax Rainmen then, the Lightning lost Game 4 as well, sending the series back to London for a rubber match.

This year's Game 4 goes Friday in Summerside. If necessary, Game 5 will be played in London at Budweiser Gardens on a date to be determined.

4 SPORTS

No longer idle in Motor City

MLB. Blue Jays rally past Tigers in sixth and seventh to improve record to 3-5

Blue Jays designated hitter Edwin Encarnacion celebrates with teammate Mark DeRosa after scoring on a double to deep centre field by J.P. Arencibia in the seventh inning of Toronto's 8-6 win over the Tigers on Wednesday in Detroit. LEON HALIP/GETTY IMAGES

J.P. Arencibia and Mark DeRosa gave the struggling Toronto Blue Jays a chance to feel good.

Arencibia hit a three-run double in the seventh inning and the Blue Jays rallied from a five-run deficit to beat the Detroit Tigers 8-6 on Wednesday.

Toronto had opened a season of high expectations with five losses in seven games.

"No reason to panic, but when you see it slipping away in the fifth or sixth inning, it was nice for the bats to come alive," said DeRosa, whose pinch-hit double in the sixth got the comeback started in earnest. "We obviously didn't get off to the start we wanted to, but we fought."

Detroit led 6-1 in the sixth, but starter Rick Porcello allowed hits to the first three batters that inning. They all eventually scored, and Toronto added four more runs the following inning.

Bryan Villarreal (0-1) came on with one on and one out in the seventh and proceeded to walk three straight hitters, forcing in a run. Arencibia followed with a drive to the gap in left-centre off Octavio Dotel to make it 8-6.

"It was nice to finally get a few hits and walks and guys grinding out at-bats, and string it all in the same inning," Arencibia said. "To score, you need to be able to do that collectively in an inning."

Aaron Loup (1-0) pitched a scoreless sixth for the Blue Jays. Casey Janssen, the last of five Toronto relievers, pitched a perfect ninth for his second save.

Jays starter Mark Buehrle allowed six runs — five earned — in 4 1/3 innings.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

By the numbers

0-19

Blue Jays designated hitter Edwin Encarnacion snapped an 0-for-19 skid by doubling in the fourth and sixth innings.

Reason to believe

The Jays' start has been uneven to say the least, but there are plenty of teams that have converted bad starts into post-season finishes.

- **2008 Tampa Bay Rays.** Opened April with a 7-10 record but rebounded with a 15-12 month. Went on to win their division and the American League pennant.
- **2006 Minnesota Twins.** 1-5 to start, 9-15 in April, and 25-33 on June 7 before winning 44 of their next 52 to glide into the post-season.
- **2002 Anaheim Angels.** Won the World Series after a 2-5 start in April. They were 9-11 in April before things turned around.
- **2001 Oakland Athletics.** Went 8-17 to start, then 96-43 the rest of the way.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Woods has kinks to iron out going into Masters

The first tee shot clattered through a pair of pines on the left side of the 13th fairway, finally landing on the wrong side of Rae's Creek. Tiger Woods tried again, and this wasn't any better. Fans peered across the fairway and only heard the ball rifle through some bushes.

"He's hitting another one," a man announced from the gallery.

The third shot with a fairway metal caused them to retreat until it turned with a slight draw, clipping a pine branch and settling in the second cut of rough.

Woods played nine holes Wednesday morning in his final tuneup for the Masters, and how he played was of little consequence. Even so, that snapshot from the 13th tee was another reminder how quickly the best plans can fall apart, even for the No. 1 player on top of his game, especially at Augusta National in Georgia.

When the Masters begins Thursday, Woods is the odds-on favourite to end his five-year drought in the majors, and win a green jacket for the first time since 2005.

Tiger Woods hits a practice shot on Wednesday in Augusta, Ga. ANDREW REDINGTON/GETTY IMAGES

Quoted

"It's always a challenge those first five or six holes, when you haven't been in competition, to be really mentally focused and sharp."

Phil Mickelson, who said Wednesday that he has butterflies ahead of the Masters. Mickelson hasn't played since the Houston Open during the last weekend of March.

Trouble is, Augusta National doesn't play favourites.

"Obviously, Tiger is Tiger," said Scott Piercy, who will play alongside Woods and Luke Donald in the opening two rounds. "He's always going to be that target. He knows it, and that's how he wants it. But there's a lot of people getting closer. And the golfing gods, or whatever you want to call them, have a lot to do with winning. A bounce here, a bounce there. A lip in, a lip out." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MMA

Hamilton fighter dies after bout

Felix Pablo Elochukwu, a 35-year-old Nigerian man living in Hamilton on a student visa, died at Port Huron, Mich., Hospital last Saturday night shortly after fighting in a mixed martial arts bout, police said.

Results of an autopsy are expected in a week or two.

Elochukwa's trainer Jeff Joslin and numerous others who were there were cited in various reports saying Elochukwu hadn't taken anything close to a pounding.

Joslin, who was at the fight, says it was a relatively tame contest. Most of the time, the two heavyweights were grappling and wrestling.

In the third round, the two exhausted fighters went to the mat where Elochukwu ended up on the bottom and was hit a number times to the head. He was unable to defend himself because of fatigue, and the referee stepped in and stopped the bout.

The defeated fighter was not knocked out and was coherent after the fight. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Curling. Howard already focused in on Sochi Games

There is just one major title missing from Glenn Howard's resumé.

The Canadian curling legend has won just about every significant event over his storied career but he has yet to step onto the Olympic podium. The 2014 Winter Games might just be his last opportunity to do so.

Howard has already qualified for the Canadian Curling Trials this fall. If he emerges victorious at the MTS Centre in Winnipeg, he would represent Canada next February in Sochi, Russia.

"It's on my bucket list to get to an Olympics," Howard said Wednesday.

The Midland, Ont., native started curling over 30 years ago and is still at the top of his game. He won the 2012 Tim Hortons Brier and earned his fourth world title later in the year.

Howard and teammates Wayne Middaugh, Brent Laing and Craig Savill have been strong again this season. The veteran skip is in top spot on the World Curling Tour's Order of Merit and he won bronze at the recent national playdowns.

Howard said his team will likely sit down in the next week to look back at the last few years to determine what they need to do so they can peak at the Dec. 1-8 Olympic trials.

Glenn Howard THE CANADIAN PRESS

"You want to have your best performance in December and then hopefully you win that and then have it in February," Howard said after a promotional appearance at Yonge-Dundas Square in Toronto. "I don't see a lot of changes. We kind of like what we've done. Our last two years have been pretty successful.

"A couple of weeks we weren't that happy about. We're not sure why and that's what we've got to figure out. We don't really know what that formula is but we're going to try to figure that out too."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
You need to clear your mind of trivial thoughts and focus only on what really matters, with your career very much to the fore. The rest of the world can waste time on non-essentials.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
According to the planets, someone is abusing your good nature and you must get tough to make sure they stop. Just because you're a nice guy does not mean you're not allowed to get nasty once in a while.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
There is something you need to take care of that cannot be delegated to other people. You may not enjoy it that much but you know it must be done. Get it over with now and the good times will soon begin.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
Yes, someone has betrayed your trust, but is it really such a big deal? Why not just forget about it and move on? If nothing else, others will realize you are not thin-skinned.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
A little bit of effort will go a long way today but don't push too hard. Pace yourself according to your natural limits. Small victories will soon add up to major triumphs.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
If you give up one thing today, you will gain something much more valuable in the long-term. But do you have the willpower to make the change? If you don't make it now, it may never be made.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Try not to take what you hear today the wrong way. What you think is bad news may be nothing of the sort. You could just be creating an interpretation that doesn't exist.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Other people seem unable to grasp even the most simple of instructions today, which is so frustrating. There is no point losing your temper as that will only make matters worse.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Before you agree to new responsibilities, you should ask yourself how they might affect other areas of your life. Cash flow situation isn't everything. Time has value too.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
No matter how tempting a social invitation may be, you must turn it down and do something less demanding. There are times when you like to be alone with your thoughts and this is one of them.

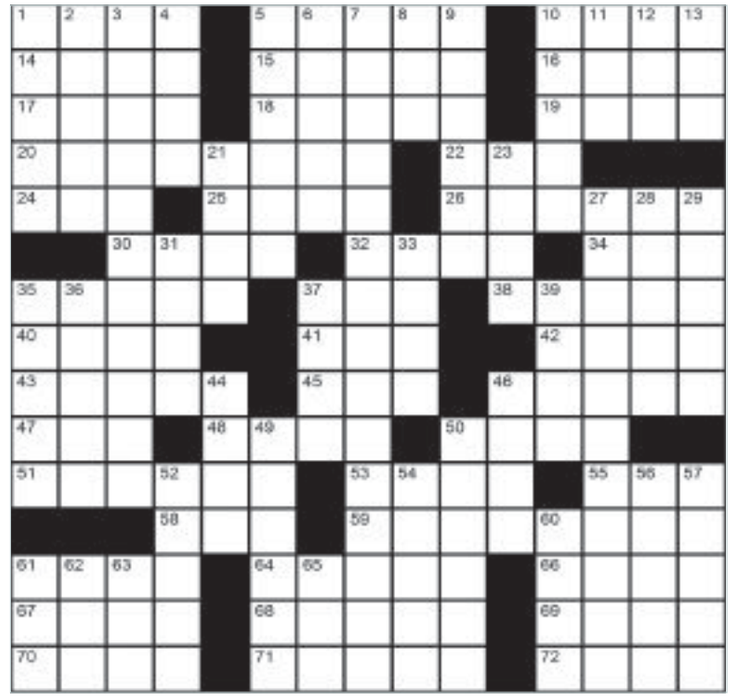
♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Something you hear while listening in on someone else's conversation will intrigue you and make you want to know more, but you've got to be smart about it. You don't want them to know you're a snoop.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Some people have no shame and you will find yourself having to deal with one such individual today. Don't waste time trying to befriend them. Morally you are on different planets. SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

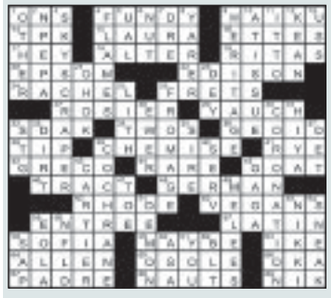
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



Across
1. Cod-like fish
5. Ancient insect trapping/preserving stuff
10. Halifax-born singer, Holly __
14. Belgian imaging corporation
15. Glass: French
16. Singer Mr. Redding
17. Pea: French
18. "Should _ __ the doorbell?"
19. __ and potatoes
20. Type of painting
22. 'Smarter Planet' sloganeer
24. Metres' li'l opposites
25. __-inflammatory
26. BC river
30. Not that
32. The Ramayana heroine
34. 'Gran' add-on (Hiker's treat)
35. Hairy, like a lion
37. Very smart letters
38. Witch assembly
40. Culture medium
41. Wood sorrel
42. Hollywood great Gregory
43. Quick movie appearance
45. Hi's opposites
46. Breath mints brand
47. 'Oct' add-on (Music†interval)
48. Think over
50. Month
51. Canadian bakery since 1882
53. Unwritten
55. Post-op locale
58. "Impressive!"
59.Canadian actress Kate
61. __-Levesque (Boulevard in Montreal)
64. Chilliwack song: "__-_"
66. Juniors = Jnrs/ Seniors = ?
67. Idea: French
68. Take _ __ breath
69. "Let __" by The Beatles: 2 wds.
70. Atmosphere
71. Actress, Parker __
72. Way [abbr.]

Down
1. Labrador community, __ Valley-Goose Bay
2. "Have _ __ time!" (Enjoy!)
3. What The Kardashians mostly have, "_-_ __ __
4. "__ of Eden" (1955)
5. Birds
6. Warrant
7. What were Upper Canada and Lower Canada?: 2 wds.
8. 'West' suffix
9. Get-then-give the present
10. This thing: ,
11. 'Capri' suffix
12. __ Fail (Irish coronation stone)
13. The bar on "Cheers", __. 1895
21. Bug killer brand
23. Bric-a-__
27. Parti Quebecois concern
28. Pick a politician
29. Colonel and Lieutenant
31. Not there
33. Varieties of apples
35. Parrot
36. Tequila plant source
37. Opinion __
39. Unlock
44. 1847 Herman Melville story
46. Select/reject
49. Open a package
50. Clunker car
52. Shannon __ (Canadian wife of rocker Gene Simmons)
54. Ms. Zellweger
56. Breads and pasta, e.g.
57. Not yet established
60. Egyptian Myth: Daughter of Geb
61. Coffee mug part
62. Tokyo, formerly
63. Prefix to 'lithic'
65. Ruckus

Yesterday's Crossword



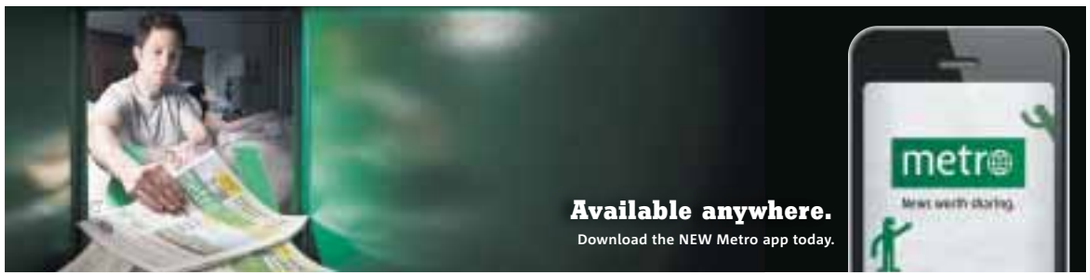
Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

	2						8	
	9	4		7		6	3	
6			1		9			5
		5	2		4	3		
		9	6		7	5		
4			8		6			9
	3	1		5		8	6	
	5						7	

Yesterday's Sudoku

3	6	9	8	2	5	1	4	7
8	1	7	6	4	9	2	3	5
4	5	2	3	1	7	6	9	8
5	7	4	2	6	3	9	8	1
9	3	6	1	7	8	4	5	2
1	2	8	9	5	4	3	7	6
2	9	3	7	8	1	5	6	4
7	4	1	5	3	6	8	2	9
6	8	5	4	9	2	7	1	3



SUPERKING SUPERMARKET

Psst...

Come in

TOMORROW

for a sneak peek!

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